Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for synthesising a given peptide or its derivative, which peptide or derivative contains a proline residue or a proline derivative, at proximity to, or at, the C-terminal end of said peptide, the method comprising the steps of:

   a) synthesising on a first resin a C-terminal portion of said peptide, or its derivative, comprising at least three successive amino acid residues or their derivatives, by successive coupling of selected amino acids, small peptides or their derivatives, ~~said first resin being suitable for the formation of peptides having a proline residue or a proline derivative positioned at, or at proximity of, the C-terminal end of said peptide~~ wherein said first resin is a 2-chlorotrityl chloride resin or any similar resin which inhibits or minimizes the formation of diketopiperazine;

   b) cleaving the C-terminal portion thus obtained from said first resin;

   c) reattaching said C-terminal portion to a second resin, wherein said second resin is a resin having a benzyl alcohol group which, on attachment to said C-terminal portion, forms a benzyl ester linkage with said C-terminal portion ~~which is generally suitable for the synthesis of peptides but is unsuitable for the formation of peptides having a proline residue or a proline derivative positioned at, or at proximity of, the C-terminal end of said peptide~~; and

   d) coupling selected amino acids, small peptides or derivatives thereof to the C-terminal portion to obtain said given peptide or its derivative.

2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said given peptide is a peptide which comprises at least 20 amino acid residues.

3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said given peptide is a chemokine having a proline residue or a proline derivative at the C-terminal or at proximity thereof.

4. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first resin is chosen so that it does not lead to the formation of a cyclic dipeptide.

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of said steps a) and d) is achieved by successive coupling of amino acids or derivatives thereof.

6. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first resin for the formation of the C-terminal portion is the 2-chlorotrityl chloride resin.

7. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said second resin is a resin of the type having benzyl ester linkers.

8. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said second resin is a Wang ~~type~~ resin.

9. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said given peptide comprises up to 150 amino acid residues.

10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the cleaving step is achieved using a mild acid treatment.

11. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the C-terminal portion is fully protected so it can be attached directly onto the second resin.